CLAIMS

1. A Sn-based metal-coated steel strip excellent in appearance comprising a Ni-based metal preplating layer and a Sn-based metal coating formed thereon, and being characterized in that a Ni emission intensity line and an Fe emission intensity line obtained by glow discharge spectroscopy of the surface of the coated steel strip satisfy a relationship of the formula (1):

$$T1 \geqq T2 \quad \ldots (1)$$

wherein T1 is a sputtering time at the peak of a Ni emission intensity line, and T2 is a sputtering time at the inflection point of an Fe emission intensity line.

2. The Sn-based metal-coated steel strip excellent in appearance according to claim 1, wherein T1 and T2 further satisfy a relationship of the formula (2):

$$1 \leqq T1/T2 \leqq 1.5 \quad \ldots (2)$$

3. The Sn-based metal-coated steel strip excellent in appearance according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the Ni-based metal is a metal selected from the group consisting of Ni, Ni-Sn alloys, Ni-Zn alloys, Ni-Fe alloys and Ni-Co alloys.

4. The Sn-based metal-coated steel strip excellent in appearance according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the Sn-based metal is a Sn-Zn-based alloy.

5. The Sn-based metal-coated steel strip excellent in appearance according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the Sn-based metal-coated steel strip is an extremely low carbon one.

6. The Sn-based metal-coated steel strip excellent in appearance according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the Sn-based metal-coated steel strip is for fuel tank materials.

7. The Sn-based metal-coated steel strip excellent in appearance according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the Sn-based metal-coated steel strip is for materials for electrical appliances.

8. The Sn-based metal-coated steel strip excellent in appearance according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the Sn-based metal-coated steel strip is for architectural materials.